GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3503
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
GENETIC VARIATIONS IN HUMAN BEINGS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the efforts made towards involving sequencing of genomes of different people from around the world to create a detailed and medically useful picture of human genetic variation;

(b) names of Health Scientists involved alongwith the countries of their origin; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) As per the news released on 22nd January, 2008 by the National Institute of Health(NIH), an international research consortium had announced the 1000 Genomes Project, involving sequencing the genomes of at least a thousand people from around the world to create the most detailed and medically useful picture to date of human genetic variation.The project is getting major support from the Wellcome Trust Sangor Institute in Hinxton, England,the Beiging Genomics Institute, Shenzhen (BGI) Shenzhen) in China and the National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) India.The data so created will be made available to the world wide scientific Community through freely accessible public database.The detailed map of human genetic variation will be used by many researchers seeking to relate genetic variation to particular diseases.In turn, such research will lay the groundwork for the personal genomic era of medicine,in which people routinely will have their genomes sequenced to predict their individual risks of disease and response to drugs.